

Approved Sept. 16, 2015

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Minutes for June 4, 2015, 3:30-5:30 pm
Glass Room, Bangs Center**

Present: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Patricia Holland, Mary Streeter, Alan Powell, Melissa Perot, Chris Riddle. **Members of the Public:** Walter Wolnik, Naomi Ossar

Peggy called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM and welcomed new member Chris Riddle.

1. **Public Comment:** Walter Wolnik explained his email to Peggy objecting to TMCC appearing to advocate for Articles 28, 29, and 30 when it is TMCC's policy to remain neutral. Mary reviewed the email she sent which reminded TM members to come vote on the last three articles on the warrant as she was concerned that a quorum be present. She had attached to it a late received notice supporting Art. 30, and acknowledged that was inappropriate. Walter and Naomi then left.

2. **Election of Officers:** Alan moved all current officers continue. We voted unanimously to do so.

3. **Discussion of 2015 Annual Town Meeting:**

Chris noted he'd heard a new proposal to limit TM to 120 members.

Mary reported that only one person submitted a voucher for dependent care expenses. We agreed there should be more publicity about this benefit since it might encourage people to run for TM.

Melissa advised we should remind people that anyone can attend TM, though non-residents need permission to speak. Nonny said she would write a letter to the editor on the subject of TM. Melissa said to add that the policy applied to all Town-sponsored meetings.

Alan and Chris reported on the demonstration of electronic voting in Brookline, and Alan showed us a video. It would cost Amherst \$25,000 plus \$500/year, and Alan noted Brookline had to use extra people to distribute the clickers. A demonstration will take place at Amherst's Fall TM. Other companies will be interviewed. Chris thought the system highly desirable.

Mary noted there is a book on moderating from the Mass. Moderators' Association that is available at the Jones Library. Pat will check it out and bring it to the next meeting.

Nonny reported the moderator's gavelling was painfully loud.

We agreed to invite moderator Jim Pistrang to a post-mortem and discussed dates in June.

Mary shared her concern about the low turn-out for the TMCC election.

Mary also handed out chart showing time spent on articles, times quorums were reached, ending time, and the attendance of members. The highest number attending a session was 197 out of 241 members.

4. **Auditorium Lighting:** Mary Wentworth emailed Peggy that the lights are tiring and cause head aches. Peggy read a 2012 memo on this matter in which Brian Ecclestone said they were getting a new lighting system. Chris said he will talk to Brian about this matter.

5. **Additional Tally Cards:** Nonny said that all cards should have pre-printed names rather than just a space for hand-written ones, which were often illegible. She also thought we should be given more cards from the start. She will discuss the matter with the Town Clerk.

6. **Topics Not Anticipated 48 Hours Before Meeting:** We all agreed we must get a handicapped accessible bus for the bus tour, since a new TM member could not get on the bus with his wheelchair. Apparently there is one that's part of the school bus fleet. Pat will check it out.

7. **Scheduling of Meetings:** To be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Submitted by Patricia Holland, Clerk.

Documents Distributed:

Agenda